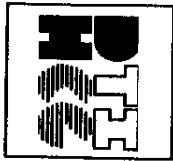# DALLAS 99 INTERFACE

Volume 12, Number 8 August, 1992

This newsletter is the official publication of the DALLAS TI HOME COMPUTER GROUP, a non-profit organization serving our members and other users of the Texas Instruments 99/4A HOME COMPUTER. For more information you are cordially invited to attend our next meeting or send a S.A.S.E. to;

DALLAS TI HOME COMPUTER GROUP
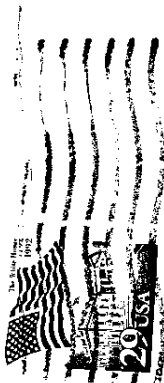P.O. BOX 29863
DALLAS, TX 75229

Reprints of our articles are allowed, but must give credit to DTIHCG and be complete.

NEXT MEETING
Saturday, August 8th, 1992
at the Dallas INFOMART
I-35 E at the Oak Lawn Exit

Shaking the Bushes

Greetings to all from Shaking the Bushes. At the July's Infomart meeting, we had 35 attendees and a program with MUSIC and Games for the TI99/4A. Lisa Morgan-Shaffer gave our Disk of The Month with music and games on the 4A. This disk was packed full of good things. Hope all enjoyed it!

Here it is a very hot day and I'm sitting here at my computer doing my article for the Newsletter. I volunteer my time to the DTICHUG because I really enjoy it. The newsletter articles must be in at our Next-Steps, two weeks before our Infomart meeting.

Well, all of you are wanting NEW things for the 4A, here are some of them as follows:

BUD MILLS has the SCSI interface which will be ready in August. SCSI (SCSI is called scuzzy) will support seven drives, also will allow data to be transferred to the P-Box at a rate of 1 megabyte per second, according to Don O'Neil. It allows the TI to talk to scanners, as well as ASCII files, to read from IBM format to TI Writer without a conversion program. Price to be estimated at $170.00. Then we have DON O'NEIL working on the accelerator again after

getting the information form TI. Accelerator will allow or cause the TI to operate at 8 times the console speed or twice the speed of the Geneve.

"MEMEX CARD expansion up to 16 megabytes would be possible" quotes Don O'Neil. MID-MASTER V.3 with Mike Maksimik of Crystal Software is nearing completion of V.3.0, which is scheduled to do several configurations. MID_MASTER operates with TI and compatible keyboard, using the RS232 Interface. V.3.0S (standard) TI99/4A with 32K and disk drives. Two drives are preferred but are not required. V.3.0E 128K plus 32K will work with the RAMBO module or the forthcoming 4A MEMEX. This can load more music, including the coverted CAKEWALK files from IBN. V.3.0EX runs 99/4a with extra memory, 9938 Video, and uses graphics with full screen display and notes. It will access RAMBO or 256K RAMDISK. V.3.0G is for the Geneve 9640 system with the mouse, 128K memory free, and accesses RAMBO or MEMEX card. Mike Maksimik says V.3.0S will probably be his last release for the 32K standard.

NEWSLETTER CLEARINGHOUSE has at least 18 Users Groups that belong. It has 11 libraries of original materials from Newsletters that member groups can upload or mail on disk.

Articles are from the US, SWEDEN, AUSTRALIA,ENGLAND, and the TIPS of JIM PETERSON'S.

CHRIS BOBBITT'S ASGARD MOUSE has been redesigned and has been released. Prince: $39.95.

BLUFFOON is a game similar to HANGMAN but with better graphics, handles up to 10 players. Requirements: TI99/4A or GENEVE 9640, 32 K Memory, XB and disk drive. Program from : D L SOFTWARE, 89 Little Neck Ave, Swansea MA 02777. Price : $8.95 + $1.50 SH.

PAGE PRO BORDER FONTS on 2 SS/SD disks, includes 24 different sets of fonts for creating your own borders and nine sample borders with original PAGE PRO default large fonts. PAGE PRO BORDER FONTS VOL. 1 is available from MEDIA WARE, STE.25, 2141 NW 64th Ave, Sunrise FL 33313-3950. 2 disk set sells for $7.00 + $2.50 SH.

TI CASINO SUPPLEMENT offers more enhancements of CASINO games. NOTUNG SOFTWARE, 7647 McGroarty St, Tujunga CA 91042. Price: $5.00 + $1.00 SH.

There are NEW PRODUCTS in the works that MICKEY SCHMITT is working on. LEE BENDICK

and BARRY BOONE are working on a product
which may debut at the Chicago Faire. It is not
yet known what these products are.

What can I say people, there are NEW products
for our little TI99/4A still being made. So all
of you 4A users stand by our authors and our
programmers and hardware people that
develop these things for us. They are making
this little machine a lot better and faster. Isn't
that what you want folks!! If I can volunteer
my time to do research to see what new
products are out these, then why not support
them by buying these things. Then are doing it
to keep the 4A ALIVE AND WELL.

There are poeple keeping the 4A WORLD ALIVE
and WELL. I salute them for their continuing
interest in the 4A. They dedicate a lot of time
and hours into this for us. This is one list that
would fill the newsletter full. So let's keep our
USER GROUPS of the TI99/4A ALIVE AND
WELL, and let's show all that our little machine
is a GREEAATT ONE. Get those 4A's out of those
closets, clean them and see them work. We as
users love out TI99/4A's. I know I do.

Well, folks I seem to have run out of words
and all the good news of NEW things so I'll
close for now. Remeber to mark your calendars
for AUGUST 8, 1992 at 9:00 AM at INFOMART

SUPER SATURDAY. SEE ALL OF YOU THERE WITH
BRIGHT SHINING FACES AND SMILES.

HAVE A VERY NICE WEEK!
          Mattie Bush
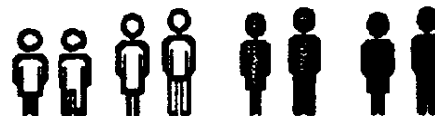
Updating the Database
By Charlice Althar

TWO NEW MEMBERS! Again this month we've
added two new names to our DTIHCG roster.
Welcome to CHARLIE HUMPHREYS of Garland
and DON THURMAN of Quitman. We're glad you
found us, and we hope to be of help to you as
you enjoy using your TI-99/4A's.

RENEWALS were received this month from
EARL BULLOCK, MICHAEL CHAPMAN, JEFFREY
KUHLMANN, ROBERT SMITH, and JIM STEWART.
Thank you, each one!

GUESTS this month included CORRIUM BURNS,
son of WILLIE GUPTON and sister of SEPORIA

BURNS. We also were glad to have observing our group two local university students, CREEDE and YOLANDA MOORE. Welcome to DTIHCG, all of you, and we hope to see you again soon!

Beginner Printer By Jim Lesher

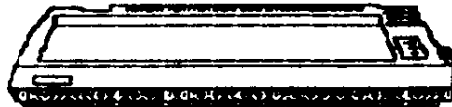These programs are written on a Star Gemini printer and may or may not work on another brand. These are about the most basic programs for a printer. Some of these programs could all be put on one line in Extended Basic.

VERTICLE TABS For some of us who have yet to access the full potential of our printers, this may be one step closer. Verticle tabs. Looking in the list of commands where it says ESC P nn..n NUL 80 n n 0 50 n n 00 , in the gemini 10x user manual really don't help much. The manuals for the later models are a little better. But what it all boils down to is this:

10 OPEN "1:"P10"

20 PRINT"1:CHR$(27);"P";CHR$(05);CHR$(10); CHR$(00);

30 PRINT "1:CHR$(11);"VERTICLE TAB "

40 PRINT "1:CHR$(11);"VERTICLE TABS "

Line 20 tell the printer to tab 10 line feeds and 20 line feeds, upon demand. The CHR$(0) must be there to tell the printer, there will be no more tabs.

The manual doesn't give a limit on the number of tabs you can use, but if you used the minimum sized tab of 2 line feeds it would be 32 for a 66 line page. The COMMAND is in line 30 and 40. The CHR$(11) is the trigger. Now if you want the 2nd tab to be 10 lines beyond the first one, you must add 10 to the first number in line 20. The first number is 5, I make it (05) in case I want to change it to a double digit without having to use INSERT. So if you want it to tab 5 more lines the 2nd number must be 10, which may become confusing if you are using several VT's. One more little glitch, the 2nd tab number must be at least 2 more than the first or you will get a suprise.

JIM

UPGRADE......
UPGRADE.........
UPGRADE.............

By Wille Gupton

If you are one of the people who have been
wanting to upgrade   99/4A, here is the
opportunity you have been waiting for. Now
you can upgrade your SS/SD system with that
one drive to a system with two DS/DD 1/2
height drives. Drives are available now,
including all the hardware needed for
installation. YES, even assistance to do the
small amount of work required to install the
new drives. If you are not mechanically
inclined, the work can be done for you. So
don't pass up this opportunity to get in the
mainstream. Upgrade that system TODAY, at a
very reasonable cost. So what are you waiting
for now?

If you are interested, contact Mattie Bush at
(214)637-4937; Mary Leard at (214)524-8057;
or bring it to our attention at any of the
meetings.

      HURRY !   HURRY !   HURRY !

Put an end to all that disk swapping. Save all
that wear and tear on your present drive. Ask
yourself, how much longer can this drive hold
up under these circumstances? ACT NOW!
DON'T DELAY!

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┌─────────┬───┬──────────┐
│ NEXT    │   │ ALTHAR   │
├─────────┴───┼──────────┤
│ STEP   BY   │ CHARLICE │
└─────────────┴──────────┘
```

June's **NEXT STEP** met as usual at JOJO's, with
an enthusiastic beginning as we helped our
newest member, CHARLIE HUMPHREYS, get his
system up and running. CHARLIE is akin to
several of our newer members, in that he was
given a TI-99/4A, then had to find out what
could be done with it. He had a console, P-Box
with 32K memory, RS232 card, and a disk
drive, and even had a printer, but
unfortunately had no cables to connect the
components to each other or even to the wall!
Thanks to JIM LESHER, we were able to "get
him connected", and since his primary interest
is word processing, we showed him TI-WRITER,
SUPERDISK, and DM1000 so he could get
started right away. JIM also demo'd a disk of
42 programs linked together in THE MISSING
LINK.

In addition, discussions were going on around
the room on modems, hail damage, and laser
speed detectors. ROBERT SMITH took pictures
of the group, and entertained us with more of
his "war stories", and along with JACKIE GUION
briefed DAN LOWE on fonts and graphics. We
all were glad to see 2 members who haven't
often been able to be with us lately--RIP
DOWLING and DON STEVENSON. MATTIE told us
a bit more about her recent family reunion,
and we discussed ways of using our computers
for family and class reunions.

All in all, another good evening of exchanging information, getting the help needed, a good time, and building friendships. We were all glad we were there!

July's NEXT STEP on July 24 was the scene of several discussions prompted by current political activities. TOM HALL was wearing a prized souvenir TRUMAN button, which from a distance looked amazingly like another President! LOUIS GUION called our attention to the article in this month's COMPUTER CURRENTS about ROSS PEROT's phone bank information-gathering system, with a resulting roundtable discussion on computer information systems in general and their effects on all of us. LOAN made a surprise appearance to join TOM for dinner, and she and MATTIE talked gardening for a while. TOM claims he hasn't been able to do much computing lately, because LOAN has been buying out the new HOME DEPOT store in their area for projects for him. Keep us posted, TOM! GLADYS MCCRARY showed LOAN pictures of her grandchildren and great-grandchildren. L.M. KENNEDY and DAN LOWE talked about scanning pictures of computer workstations. L.M. had some pictures of his workstation with him, and we received an update on the progress of DAN's new computer room and his workstation

arrangement. ROBERT JONES received something from TOM which attracted a lot of interest. When you see ROBERT, ask him how many checks he's written since NEXT STEP! We talked about BBS's, and some of the reasons that some programs seems so slow in running. DAN and MATTIE discussed newspaper advertising, and the possibilities of placing ads locally to attract new members to DTIHCG. We discussed sector editing programs, and JIM LESHER, MATTIE, and WILLIE GUPTON tried to run TYPEWRITER and WORDPRO for DAN. Last but not least, we all wished JIM a HAPPY BIRTHDAY for the 25th!

DTIHCG members who attend NEXT STEP not only receive but give help, on subjects computer-related and otherwise. We hope more of you will join us on August 21, anytime after 5 PM, at JOJO's on Motor Street, just east of I-35E. You'll be glad you did!

HAPPY BIRTHDAY!
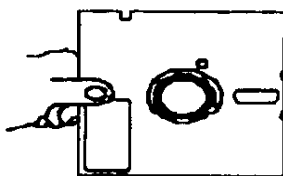
USER NOTES - MICROpendium July 1992
Assembly program turns cassette port on and off

By Jonathan D. Guidry

The following item appeared in the newsletter pf the Long Island TI99er User group.

Here is an assembly program for the TI written by Jonathan D. Guidry that turns the cassette port on and off and the audio port on the cassette port on and off.

```
        DEF    MTRON,MTROFF

        DEF    AUDON,AUDOFF

STATUS  EQU    >837C

GPLWS   EQU    >83E0

MTRON   CLR    R12

        SBO    22

        JMP    QUIT
```

```
MTROFF  CLR    R12

        SBZ    22

        JMP    QUITAUDON

        CLR    R12

        SBZ    24

        JMP    QUIT

AUDOFF  CLR    R12

        SBO    24

        JMP    QUIT

QUIT    CLR    R0

        MOVB   R0,@STATUS

        LWPI   GPLWS

        B      @>0070

        END
```

MICROpendium pays $10 for items sent in by readers and used in this column. Send them to MICROpendium User Notes, P.O. Box 1343, Round Rock, TX 78680.

MICROpendium   July 1992

NATIONAL GROUP ADOPTS HARDWARE STANDARDS

The National Committee for TI Standards released the following hardware standards after a meeting at the Lima Multi Users Group Conference in May, according to Don O'Neil, facilitator for the group:

Level A: TI99/4A console, TV or monitor, cassette deck and cable.

Level B: Level A plus 32k memory expansion, EA/5 loader (e.g. Extended BASIC, Editor/Assembler, Supercart, TI-Writer, Multiplan).

Level C: Level B plus RS232, double-sided, single density disk drive and controller.

Level D: Level C plus 128K or greater CPU RAM bankable in at least 8K segments.

Level E: Level D plus 9938/58 VDP with 128K VDP RAM (any 80-column card) or a Geneve.

National Standards, continued......

The group selected as its first project to write a universal DSR for memory access to all current extended memory cards (Myarc/Cor-Comp 128/256/512K, RAMBO, Geneve, RAVE, etc.)

The group plans to exchange information about the current RAM cards at the Chicago TI Faire OCT31, O'Neil says. Once the DSR is completed and documented, the group plans to release it in the public domain. Persons with information on accessing RAM cards are asked to contact NCTIS at the Chicago Faire or members of the group which met in Lima.

They include O'Neil; David Connery, Used TI Equipment; Vic Steerup, consumer; Beery Miller, 9640 News; Mike Maksimik, Crystal Software; Bud Mills, Bud Mills Services; Mark Wacholz, Media Ware Software; Ken Gilliland, Notung Software; and Mike Sealy, MS Express Software.

A NEWS FLASH: COMPUTER MONTHLY will no longer carry anything execpt IBM news. They have dropped all other computers. The TI99/4A article is no longer in this magazine nor is the listing of the BBS's. Another one lost. Please let's let them know that we will miss

News
Flesh,
continued......

the TI99/4A articles in the COMPUTER MONTHLY.

MORE THAN 16 ON TI

Original Source TI 99°er News, July 1984

More than 16 what? More than 16 colors. Now, you ask? Read on. You thought that the TI could only give you 16 colors, such as pink and orange, that you never thought possible on your computer.

```
130 CALL CLEAR
140 FOR A=40 TO 136 STEP 8
150 CALL CHAR(A,"55AA55AA55AA55AA")
160 NEXT A
170 FOR B=2 TO 14
180 CALL COLOR(B,1,1)
190 CALL VCHAR(1,2*B,24+8*B,22)
200 CALL VCHAR(1,2*B+1,24+8*B,22)
210 NEXT B
220 FOR C=2 TO 14
230 CALL SCREEN(INT(16)*RND)+1
240 FOR D=2 TO 14
250 CALL COLOR(D,D,C)
260 NEXT D
270 CALL KEY(0,E,F)
280 IF F=1 THEN 270
290 NEXT C
300 GOTO 220
```

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TREASURER	Vacant	
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VIDEO LIBRARIAN	ROBERT SMITH	903-693-5568
ADVENTURE LIBRARIAN	CHARLES BROCK	214-276-3822

These people are DTIHCG officers and chairpersons. They help themselves and you, by giving much of their time in working to make this a better club for all of us. Most attend the Executive Committee Meeting the Saturday afternoon following the INFOMART meeting. Any interested member is invited to join us for the next Chairperson's portion of the meeting.

Please take the time to thank these people individually for their efforts. It makes their job easier.